7/26/71

Dear Harold,

I now have several mailings from you, which I'll go through again and respond where necessary.

The article "U.S. Oil Rigs for China" is very interesting and, if I am not mistaken, supports my notion (written in an enclosed but earlier letter) that Nixon plans to exploit China.

Info on clothing very good. That the knot was untied is quite a shocker and I will keep it in confidence. Your memo on examination of the pictures is sometimes incomprehensible. You talk about pictures of the cuffs and sleeves of the shirt. What significance are they? Do you mean the collar? Other than the fact that the knot was untied, there seems to be nothing new in what you saw. You mention nothing remarkable in the pix of the shirt, either hole, and of that is left in the tie, the available pictures are enough, I think.

Your return to PM is understandable if you want to put together a record for history. I really don't think there is a chance of getting it published now. Even with all the great stuff you have, it will mean little to the oublic and the press, no matter how well its significance is explained. To be blunt, nobody's interested. I fear the same for my book. A big editor at Little Brown is giving it his personal (so I am told) attention now, but I am not optimistic at all.

Understand that I say this constructively and in your own interests, but please write carefully and make sure you make crystal clear just what you are getting at in whatever you write now for PM. Otherwise even your historical record will be lost. The other PM's are great but someone without a godd knowledge of the case and the medical aspects of it would probably not know that. For all their absolutely brilliant research, they are poorly organized and unclear, esp. PM-I as I recall. It simply lacked focus. Even when I read it, I was often baffled by the relationships of things you seemed to imply had relationships. Especially with the record you have built with the clothing, you must be meticulous! You must realize that your readers do not have the same mind as you, they do not think like you. Even most of those familiar with the facts are not as sharp, do not have the probing analytical mind you do. This has been a fantastic asset for your research, but it has been one of the major shortcomings of your writings. Almost everything you have written reads to me as if it were implicit that your reader think exactly as you do. And this does not even mean that he share the same views. It is a way of thinking and approaching things.

It seems that I spend a lot of time telling you how to write. To be frank, sometimes your writing exasperates me. It is probably because (I think) I have a grasp of your work that few have. I know how important it is and how good it is, and I really hate to see you put out your own fire by writing in a virtually incomprehensible way. And I would like so much for you to be recognized--both for yourself and for society. I also think you realize that I am not the only one who has these feelings.

Will write other seperate notes.

Take care,

Howard